Numb. 22.

THE TATLER Revived.

By ISAAC BICKERSTAFF Esq;

Quicquid agunt Homines noſtri Farrago Libelli.

To be Continued on MONDAYS *and* FRIDAYS.

FRIDAY, *December* 29. 1727.

AS I think it is generally the beſt Way in the Execution of my Office of a Cenſor to go directly to the Fountain-Head of Evils, that ſo I may put a Stop to the various Irregularities of my Countrymen the moſt effectually, by removing the very Cauſe itſelf from whence they ſpring; I have for this Reaſon hitherto turned my Thoughts chiefly to the curing the ſeveral Defects and Vagaries of their Minds. I muſt not however forget that their Dreſs, their Behaviour, and all their outward Oeconomy, are to the full as much under my Care as the inward Principles from which they flow; and ſhall therefore now and then ſet aſide a Day to animadvert upon them. Tho' a Phyſician always flouriſhes moſt in a ſickly Time, yet I can very truly affirm, that I am too great a Lover of Mankind, to be at all pleaſed with the Proſpect of ſuch a plentiful Harveſt, as I am like to reap from the Follies of the preſent Age. The ſeveral Hints I have received from my Correſpondents, and my own Obſervations on the Outſides and Manners of ſome of our Modern Pretenders to Politeneſs, have already brought me in ſuch a Stock of Enormities as will find me Work for one while: But as I ſhall do no good by attacking Things in the Lump, I muſt ſingle them out one by one, that I may the more effectually rout them. I ſhall begin with the following Letter from one of my Correſpondents, not only as it lays before me a Folly which cannot be too ſoon oppoſed; but alſo as it has at the ſame time freed me from the trouble of thinking, by pointing out the moſt ſucceſsful Battery that can be raiſed againſt it.

Mr. BICKERSTAFF,

" AS I am a true-born *Engliſhman*, and " by conſequence a hearty Lover of my " Country, and all its native Virtues; I think " myſelf obliged to return you my Thanks " for your late Endeavours to put a ſtop to " ſome of our modern Vices and Extravagancies, which ſeem equally well calculated to ſweep away all the old *Engliſh* Eſtates, and old *Engliſh* Cuſtoms. You " have very juſtly obſerved, that all the Reformation that has been made to ſupport " the immenſe Expence of our new-fangled " Fopperies, conſiſts in the one ſingle Point " of retrenching the laudable Hoſpitality of " our Anceſtors. I can give you an Account of " a farther Refinement that way, which may " not perhaps as yet have fallen under your " own Obſervation: I mean, the frugal Method of keeping their Servants at Board-" Wages, not only in *London*, but in the Country too. This modern piece of Oeconomy " may not perhaps have ſpread very far as " yet; but if we go on in our other faſhionable Extravagancies, I am afraid there " will hardly be a great Family in *England*, " but will ſoon have occaſion to have recourſe to it. I am however very credibly " inform'd that it is got into more Families " than one; and can to my Sorrow aſſure " you upon my own Knowledge, that in " ſome Countries it has travel'd very near " Threeſcore Miles from *London*. I was " not long ago at a Friend's Houſe within " ten or twelve Miles of a Gentleman's " Seat, where in the Father's Time, I had " often ſpent a Fortnight or three Weeks " very agreeably. For this Reaſon I propoſed to make the Son a Viſit, and go over to dine with him, which, as it was " at a good diſtance, my Friend very readily agreed to, tho' he had but little Acquaintance with him. When his Servant " came to take my Horſe, I obſerved an " Addition of a great quantity of Silver " Lace, and ſeveral other Ornaments to " the Livery: and we were conducted into " the Hall by a genteel Young Fellow in a very

" very handſome Suit of Clothes, who told
" us that he would go up and let his Maſter
" know that we were there. As the Doors
" were all thrown open, we entertain'd
" ourſelves with walking over the Houſe,
" which was ſo elegantly fitted up, and ſo
" magnificently furniſh'd, that I could hard-
" ly know it was the ſame. We afterwards
" took a Turn into the Garden, where my
" Eyes were very agreeably ſtruck with the
" Proſpect of ſeveral Walks and Viſto's of
" a moſt prodigious Length, which were
" all entirely new to me: and as I knew he
" had the Addition of a very pretty Place
" to his Eſtate, I was not a little pleaſed
" to find the Heir of my good old Friend in
" ſuch great Proſperity.

" WE were joined in the Garden by
" two other neighbouring Gentlemen, who
" were ſoon after follow'd by the Maſter
" of the Houſe himſelf, and at length, to
" come to my Point in view, we heard the
" welcome Call to Dinner. As I came into
" the Room, a number of very ſpruce Ser-
" vants, and two large Marble Tables very
" ſplendidly cover'd with Gilt and Silver
" Plate, Piles of China, *&c.* preſented them-
" ſelves to my View; but when I turned
" my Eyes to the Dinner itſelf, it put me
" but too juſtly in mind of your Friend
" *Horace*'s

Parturiunt Montes, &c.

" The Table was of the ſmalleſt ſize, and
" very ſlenderly cover'd with five Silver
" Things as ſparingly filled, which I could
" call no better than Plates; for which rea-
" ſon, I ſuppoſe, part of the Family, who
" I knew were in the Houſe, did not make
" their appearance. I aſſure you, Mr. Bic-
" KERSTAFF, I often frequent the beſt Com-
" pany, and therefore may perhaps under-
" ſtand what can be juſtly called *Good Breed-*
" *ing* as well as other People. I hope you
" will not think me guilty of a real Breach
" of it, when I inform you, that upon the
" Gentleman's offering to help me, I told
" him I would ſave him the trouble; and
" giving away my Plate, took one of his
" diminutive Diſhes, and clapt it down in
" its place. As I have a tolerable good
" Stomach, I ſoon diſpatch'd it; and being
" moſt heartily vex'd to ſee the ſubſtantial
" generous Hoſpitality of my old Friend
" dwindled into ſuch a gay outſide Farce,
" I immediately laid hold of a ſecond, and
" ſet it before me in the ſame manner. This
" put the Gentleman into no little Confu-
" ſion, and whilſt he was making Apologies
" about his not expecting the Favour of ſo
" much good Company, I kept my Eyes down
" directly before me, and pretending to
" mind nothing but my eating, made a ſhift
" to get the better of this alſo. As I was
" reſolved to expoſe this ridiculous Folly
" thoroughly, tho' I made myſelf ſick a-
" bout it; I then lifted up my Head, in
" order to lay hold of a third: but, to my
" no little Joy, I found that the other Coun-
" try Gentlemen had play'd their Parts al-
" moſt as well as myſelf, and made a tho-
" rough clear Stage, whilſt my Friend and
" the Maſter of the Houſe were in no man-
" ner of danger of overcharging their Sto-
" machs. The Succeſs of my two Seconds
" and myſelf at laſt obliged my Gentleman
" to let us into the whole Secret of his Oe-
" conomy; and inform us, that indeed he
" always uſed himſelf to ſuch ſmall Diſhes,
" as he kept his Servants conſtantly at
" Board-Wages, both in Town and Coun-
" try. Whilſt he was running on in an En-
" comium on the Elegance and Convenience
" of this way of Living, I kept my Counte-
" nance, and told him very gravely, That I
" was ſure the two honeſt Gentlemen on
" my left hand and myſelf, had no man-
" ner of reaſon to diſlike our Dinner. My
" Friend's empty Stomach, I believe, made
" him a little peeviſh, for he got up pretty
" abruptly, and told me it was time to be
" going; we did ſo, and I hope you will
" think the Subſtance of this Journal of our
" Expedition (which I aſſure you is really
" Matter of Fact) not improper to be laid
" before the Perſon who bears the Title of
" Cenſor of *Great Britain*. I hope you will
" be as little pleaſed with this new Refine-
" ment in our way of Living, as myſelf; and
" if you will but approve of my manner of
" attacking it, I do not queſtion but by the
" Aſſiſtance of all my honeſt Countrymen of
" ſound Bodies and *Engliſh* Stomachs, we
" ſhall ſoon drive this meagre Faſhion out
" of an Iſland, which has been ſo juſtly ce-
" lebrated for Plenty and Good Chear: your
" Countenance therefore in this Affair, will
" be eſteemed as no little Favour by

Sir,

Your Moſt Obedient,

Humble Servant.

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